

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed on June 25, 2007 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

The present copy of the claims, filed on June 25, 2007, does not match the previous copies of the claims, filed on July 24, 2006 and June 5, 2006. In the current copy of the claims there are portions/limitations that have been omitted (i.e., deleted), but not ~~striketrough~~. Further, in the current copy of the claims there are portions/limitations that have been added and/or substituted. As a few examples:

a. The current version of Claim 1, at line 3, reads: "a proximal body having a threaded section".

The previous copies of Claim 1, at line 3, used to read: "a proximal body **having a bore with** having a threaded section". The portion/limitation "having a bore with" has been omitted (i.e., deleted) from the current copy of Claim 1. This does not comply with 37 CFR 1.121.

b. The current version of Claim 1, at line 6, reads: "a locking member having threads adapted to engage". The previous copies of Claim 1, at line 6, used to read: "a locking member having threads that engage". The portion/limitation "having threads **that** engage" (see previous Claim 1) has been substituted with "having threads **adapted to** engage" (see current Claim 1). This does not comply with 37 CFR 1.121.

The Examiner respectfully request the Applicants to review ALL of the pending claims, since there might be other claims with similar problems/issues.

2. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice,

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whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javier G. Blanco whose telephone number is 571-272-4747. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.), first Friday of the bi-week off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 for regular communications and After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Javier G. Blanco/

Examiner, Art Unit 3774

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/Dave Willse/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3738